STANFORD UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Josh:

I was pleased to get your note in reference to halothane hepititis and a possible genetic basis. We took a modest stab at this a few years ago. An anesthesiologist in Stockton named Harvey Goodman had called up to report the observation of halothane hepititis in three pairs of closely related Mexican American women. With Goodman's, Peter Gregory's and my assistance, one of our medical students, Rick Hoft, tracked down several generations of blood relatives, but found no additional cases. We published the results in the New England Journal, a copy of which I enclose. The original manuscript had a chart of all family exposures to halothane, but in accepting the artical for publication, the Journal asked to have it shortened considerably. The November 1985 article in the New England Journal, the accompanying editorial for which you sent a copy with your note, attempts to present a metabolic basis for such a genetic mechanism. The issue does continue to be of interest, for halothane is still very much a part of the anesthesiologist's armamentarium, although I, myself, having left the operating room some eleven or twelve years ago now, obviously no longer use it.

I do continue to see patients in the Pain Clinic one or two days a week, but most of my activities are in the Health Policy area. And, of course, the seminars, to which you used to contribute by your regurlar attendance, continue on and I think continue to make a contribution and have some impact on activities within the University

It was good to hear from you. With best wishes,

Sincerely,

John P. Bunker, M.D.
Professor of Anesthesia
and Family, Community
and Preventive Medicine

JPB:pmd

Enclosure